

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Contact:  
Jan Rumble, Area Groundfish Management Biologist  
Elisa Russ, Assistant Area Management Biologist  
Phone: (907) 235-8191  
Fax: (907) 235-2448

Homer Area Office  
3298 Douglas Place  
Homer, Alaska 99603

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### FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

### PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMERCIAL

### DIRECTED POLLOCK FISHERY OPENING

### EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-03-18

The directed fishery for walleye pollock *Gadus chalcogrammus* using pelagic trawl gear in the Prince William Sound (PWS) Registration Area will open at 12:00 noon January 20, 2018 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 7.1 million pounds (3,221 metric tons). **The registration deadline for this fishery is 5:00 p.m. Monday, January 15, 2018** (ADF&G offices are closed on Saturday, January 13, the regulatory deadline). Registrations for the PWS pollock pelagic trawl fishery will only be issued to individuals who possess a 2018 miscellaneous saltwater finfish permit card for trawl gear. Permit card applications are available at ADF&G offices, online at [www.cfec.state.ak.us](http://www.cfec.state.ak.us), or from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (907) 789-6160.

Registration packets are available only at ADF&G offices in Cordova, Homer, and Kodiak. Individuals who want to register by fax or email must contact the ADF&G Homer office during regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). The registration packet will include check-in and check-out requirements, logbooks, catch reporting procedures, and accommodation of department observers.

The PWS Pollock Pelagic Trawl Management Plan (5 AAC 28.263) limits the harvest from any one of the following three Inside District management sections to no more than 60% of the GHL:

- 1) Port Bainbridge Section: waters west of 148° W. long.
- 2) Knight Island Section: waters between 148° W. long. and 147° 20.00' W. long.
- 3) Hinchinbrook Section: waters east of 147° 20.00' W. long.

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Total bycatch is limited to 5% or less of the total pollock harvested. The bycatch allowance is apportioned into the following five species groups as follows:

	Species Group					
	Rockfish	Salmon	Shark	Squid	Other	Total
Bycatch Apportionment	0.5%	0.04%	0.96%	3.00%	0.5%	5.00%
Annual Bycatch Cap (lb)	35,506	2,840	68,172	213,037	35,506	355,062
60% Section Bycatch Cap (lb)	21,304	1,704	40,903	127,822	21,304	213,037

These bycatch apportionments for the fishery correspond to the allowable bycatch levels for individual vessels participating in the fishery as round weights of bycatch species, as a percentage of the round weight of pollock onboard the vessel. There is mandatory retention of all rockfish. All bycatch in excess of the above listed percentage amounts in an individual landing must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket, and any proceeds must be surrendered to the state. If bycatch in the fishery approaches or exceeds the above listed section or annual bycatch caps, the directed trawl fishery within that section or within PWS will be closed by emergency order.

Because high effort could compromise the department's ability to manage for both the section harvest and bycatch limits, it may be necessary to adopt weekly or daily fishing periods to ensure a manageable fishery.

ADF&G will solicit bids for a test fishery in the beginning of the year, which funds groundfish research in PWS, before the season begins; the available harvest will be approximately 900,000 lb.

Once the allowable harvest level within a section is attained, the directed trawl fishery within that section will close by emergency order.

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